

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution No. 2966

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HOSKINS.

6915H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, the F-35A Lightning II is the Air Force's newest generation fighter that
2 represents an enduring, long-term mission for the Air Force; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the United States Air Force announced in April 2016 it will be considering
5 where to locate its first Air Force Reserve F-35A Lightning II mission; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Air Force announced it will consider four locations — Davis-Monthan
8 AFB, Arizona; Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort
9 Worth, Texas; and Whiteman AFB, Missouri — as candidates to host the Air Force Reserve F-
10 35A; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the Air Force expects to select the preferred and reasonable alternatives in
13 the fall of 2016 with aircraft slated to begin arriving at the first location by the summer of 2023;
14 and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the 442nd Air Force Reserve Fighter Wing currently operates the A-10
17 close air support fighter aircraft and has served numerous deployments with the utmost
18 distinction and dedication; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, 2023 is when the Air Force Reserve is planning to first operate the F-35
21 which extends well beyond the planned mission conversion from the currently operated A-10
22 Thunderbolt; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri is committed to ensuring that the incredible men and
25 women of the 442nd Air Force Reserve Fighter Wing have an enduring mission; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri has shown its resolve and commitment to support the
28 military's missions and personnel, having passed a series of military family support initiatives,
29 personnel benefits, and infrastructure improvements to support mission operations; and

30

31 **WHEREAS**, Missouri's Congressional Delegation is well positioned and works together
32 effectively in bipartisan unison with the General Assembly on initiatives aimed at supporting the
33 Department of Defense in the state of Missouri; and

34

35 **WHEREAS**, Whiteman Air Force Base has the capacity, low operating costs, and lack
36 of encroachment that would best support the execution of the F-35 mission; and

37

38 **WHEREAS**, Whiteman Air Force Base has access to unencumbered airspace, more than
39 sufficient runway length, ramp space and future installation expansion capacity; and

40

41 **WHEREAS**, Whiteman Air Force Base's resident expertise in stealth technology and
42 operations associated with the B-2 Stealth Bomber would create beneficial and unmatched
43 synergies with the F-35 stealth fighter being located at Whiteman Air Force Base; and

44

45 **WHEREAS**, the state of Missouri and the surrounding Whiteman Air Force Base
46 communities will remain supportive partners and committed to helping the Air Force assess
47 Whiteman Air Force Base's strengths throughout this selection process:

48

49 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Missouri House of
50 Representatives, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby urge the
51 United States Air Force to consider strongly all of the benefits of basing and operating the F-35A
52 Lightning II at the 442nd Air Force Reserve Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base; and

53

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
55 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Chief
56 of Staff of the United States Air Force and Chief of the Air Force Reserve.

✓